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Maine's Climate Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow

Based on a recently completed study, the authors describe the changes Maine's climate is likely to undergo over the next century and suggest that the state needs to be prepared for the impact that climate change will have on various ecosystems and economic sectors within the state.

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Understanding the Global Energy Industry Is Key to Meeting Maine's Energy Challenge

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The Energy Challenge—Gone Today, Back Tomorrow: Maine's Key Role

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David Littell, Gary Westerman and Malcolm Burson describe Maine's pioneering efforts in reducing greenhouse gas emissions, promoting energy efficiency, and developing less carbon-intensive and more sustainable energy sources, particularly the goals and accomplishments of the state's Climate Action Plan.

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Energy efficiency is cheaper than any current sources of power or fuel. Dylan Voorhees addresses barriers that need to be overcome and the needed expanded strategy if Maine is to tap its energy-efficiency potential. Tim Vrabel provides an overview of the Efficiency Maine program.

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FORUMS

NEW TECHNOLOGIES AND ALTERNATIVE FUEL INITIATIVES

Maine needs to develop both new sources of energy and new technologies to extract energy. These include, but are not limited to, large-scale wind power generation (Jackson Parker); generating electricity from gas produced by landfills (Sam Zaitlin); expanding and developing bioenergy from wood (Thor Olesen); and developing tidal power (John Ferland).

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BioEnergy and the Forest Products Industry in the Atlantica Region

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Transportation and residential sectors in Maine use a large proportion of fossil fuels and are a major contributor to greenhouse gas emissions. Jonathan Rubin reviews mechanisms by which transportation petroleum demand and greenhouse gas emissions can be reduced. Dale McCormick and Lucy Van Hook describe MaineHousing's carbon market project, noting that energy use in buildings is the "next frontier" for emissions reductions. Richard Renner presents architectural design principles that should be employed to minimize buildings' energy and resource demands and to maximize efficiency.

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Connecting Residential Energy Efficiency and Carbon Emissions Reductions: MaineHousing's Carbon Market Project

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COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL SECTORS

Maine is home to an increasing number of innovative and imaginative businesses and manufacturers that are seeking to use less energy, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, explore alternative types of energy, and operate more efficiently. We feature here articles describing efforts by four of these companies: Poland Spring Bottling, Prime Tanning, Fairchild Semiconductor, and Oakhurst Dairy.

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In the absence of federal leadership, states and communities have taken action about energy and climate. Sondra Bogdonoff discusses the 10-state Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, the first U.S. regional program to address climate change. Travis Peaslee describes the comprehensive energy efforts of the city of Saco. Samuel Merrill, Robert Sanford, and Mark Lapping discuss the planner's role in helping communities prepare for climate change. Martha Kirkpatrick urges a focus on the sense of community in facing the challenges of energy instability and environmental harm brought about by human activity.

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